



Runge Conservation Nature Center

Habitat Happenings

2009

September/October

One September evening I was sitting outside enjoying the cool weather when I noticed a couple of monarch butterflies landing above me on an oak tree branch. It wasn't long before there were hundreds of these beautiful insects clinging to the tree with their wings together, motionless. It was fascinating to see so many butterflies in one spot and I was excited and honored that they chose MY tree as a resting place before traveling south to their winter destination in Mexico. I knew that my little visitors would be gone in the morning, so I wished them luck on their thousand-mile migration and said good-bye.

Many animals, typically birds, will participate in the fall migration. Whether they are arriving, departing, or just passing through our state, the migrants have a destination to reach and a goal to achieve. They sometimes travel thousands of miles southward to find food or open water, resources they need to survive. Following are just a few examples of Missouri's seasonal migrators. Maybe you will be lucky enough to view one of nature's most awe-inspiring events this fall

and make your own migration memory.

See You Next Spring Monarch butterflies, ruby-throated hummingbirds, and several of Missouri's bats, such as hoary bats, will travel south to find food and to escape the cold weather. Don't worry....they will be back next spring.

Welcome Back! Dark-eyed juncos, white-crowned sparrows, and many ducks, such as blue-winged teal are back in Missouri from the northern states and Canada to enjoy our winter weather. It's more mild here than farther north, and it's easier for them to find the resources they need to survive. These migrants will depart again come springtime.

Just Passing Through American white pelicans, ospreys, and Caspian terns will use Missouri's wetlands as resting and feeding spots throughout the autumn months as they travel south. Visit your local wetland refuge, lake, or river to see if you are lucky enough to spot them before they move on.

Throughout this newsletter, look for fun facts about animals that migrate in the fall. Take part in our free programs to learn more about Missouri's autumn travelers.

AUTUMN TRAVELERS

by Becky Matney



Volunteer Lobby Exhibit

Milestones

The following volunteers were recognized recently for their contributions to the programs at Runge. Please congratulate them the next time you see them.

100 hours – Kathy Ashe, Cassie Kennedy, Gabby Lehmuth, Catrina Livergood, Elizabeth Viet, Carol Young, and Larry Young

500 hours – Aimee Lehmuth and Jim Lundsted

2000 hours – Anita Hammann

4000 hours – Kay Kasiske and Judy Yoder

Camp F.I.R.E. *Fun In Resource Exploration*

In June, thirty campers, ages 9-12 learned basic camping skills - fire building, tent basics, cooking, and map and compass. This week was possible because of the many Runge volunteer naturalists that shared their time, energy, and talents.

Thank You Volunteers!



~September & October~

Runge Nature Photos

by Runge Volunteers and Staff

The passion and dedication to the natural world is captured this month by our volunteers and staff. Each photo is taken exclusively here. Come view their love and discover the plant, animal, or landscape resources the trails.

Did You Know...

Indiana and little brown bats will travel up to 400 miles south during the winter months to locate a more favorable place to hibernate.

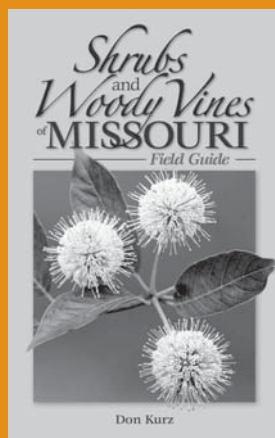
White-throated sparrows sing “sweet sweet Canada Canada Canada”; an easy way to remember where they migrate from.

Nature Shop News

September/October featured item

20% OFF

Start identifying shrubs and woody vines in your yard, neighborhood or out in the wild. Don Kurz's "Shrubs and Woody Vines of Missouri Field Guide" will show you how. Organized visually by leaf arrangement and shape, each species entry includes easy-to-understand descriptions and range maps.



Discounted Price: **\$6.00**
Heritage card discount does not apply.

Conservation Kids' Club

Welcome to Conservation Kids' Club, a fun club created for kids 6 through 12 years old who love to explore nature and learn about wildlife.

When you make your reservation (573/526-5544), please provide the name of each member, their age, and the number of siblings attending the Little Acorns program to help us better prepare for the program. Thank you.

Monarch Magic

Tuesday, September 15– 6:30-8:00PM

(Make your reservation between September 1 and September 11.)

Monarch butterflies peak in Missouri this month.



View live caterpillars, chrysalises and butterflies



Find out what they eat and where they travel



See how to tag a butterfly



Participate in crafts and activities.

Come see the magic fluttering in.

Capture the Color

Tuesday, October 20– 6:30-8:00PM

(Make your reservation between October 1 and October 16.)



Jump in a leaf pile, create a leaf print t-shirt, and so much more... The fall season uncovers the hidden and created colors found in leaves and intensifies their shapes. So tumble in, capture the color, and learn about how and why leaves change color. Please, bring a natural-colored or white t-shirt.

Hey, Parents!

While big brother/sister attends Conservation Kids' Club, your preschooler (3 through 6 years of age) can be involved in a program at the same time. A preschool program will be available for **siblings** of Conservation Kids' Club members on **Tuesday, September 15th and October 20th.**

The National Parks: America's Best Idea

September 24

5:30 – 8:00PM

See Inside for details.

Haunted Habitats presents. . .

Missouri Animals A–Z

October 23

6:00–9:00PM

A
Armadillo

Z
Zebra Swallowtail

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Habitat Happenings
Runge Conservation Nature Center
Missouri Department of Conservation
P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102



SEPTEMBER EVENTS

To make a reservation, call after **8:00AM** on **September 1st** to register for these programs (573/526-5544). If you must cancel, please call as soon as possible, so someone on the waiting list may attend. Thank you.

For the little ones

Connect with nature through exciting and age-appropriate opportunities.

Babes In The Woods

Children ages 0 through 2 years of age are welcome to attend a Babes program with their caregiver. This program is limited to 15 children, plus a caregiver.

Thursday, September 10 – 10:00AM
Wednesday, September 23 – 10:00AM

Little Acorns

Children 3 through 6 years of age are welcome to attend a Little Acorns program with their caregiver. This program is limited to 20 children, plus a caregiver.

Saturday, September 12 – 10:00AM
Friday, September 18 – 1:00PM

Little Acorns PLUS

If you have a child that fits into our Babes In The Woods program AND one that fits into our Little Acorns program this is for you! Little Acorns PLUS. This program is limited to 20 children, plus a caregiver. **When you make your reservation, please provide ages of your children.**

Tuesday, September 15 – 10:00AM
Thursday, September 24 – 10:00AM

Flutterby Butterfly

From caterpillar to chrysalis and eventually to a full grown butterfly, the life of this insect is truly amazing. We will keep our eyes open to the wonders of the butterfly this month. Join us, won't you? Reservations required.

5^{Saturday} 11:00AM

A Puppet Show—Where Do You Go When It Feels Like Snow?

Ages: All

It may not feel chilly everyday, but temperatures outdoors are dropping. Our season is shifting from summer to fall. You know what to do when nippy breezes blow and cold rain falls. But how do Missouri's animals know? Join the Runge Puppeteers and see how Red Fox, Fox Squirrel, and other animals answer the question, "Where do you go when it feels like snow?" No reservations required.

10^{Thursday} 8:00AM-12:30PM
Wetland Birding Field Trip - Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area

Ages: Women18 years and older

Come join a naturalist to learn about birds migrating, "*just passing through*" Missouri. This program will teach the basics of field guides, binoculars, spotting scopes, and wetland bird watching. We will provide extra binoculars, spotting scopes, and field guides. Please bring a sack lunch and dress for the weather. We will meet at the nature center, and then carpool together to the conservation area near McBaine. Reservations required.



12^{Saturday} 2:00-3:00PM

Art and Nature Series: Mono Prints

Ages: 8-12 years old

Learn to look at nature from another point of view. Those bloomin' fall wildflowers are beautiful! They will be the subject of your monoprint. Learn how to make one using ink and rollers. Reservations required.

16^{Wednesday} 6:00-7:00PM

Bear Achievement #5

Sharing Your World With Wildlife

Ages: 3rd grade Boy Scouts

Reservations required.

17^{Thursday} 10:30AM–Noon or 6:00–7:30PM

Nature's Needlers

Ages: 18 years and older

A century ago this member of the weasel family was nearly eliminated through unregulated harvests. Thanks to restoration efforts, the river otter has made an amazing comeback. Join us as we learn more about this playful animal and create a block to add to our "block-within-a-block" series. Reservations required.

19^{Saturday} 8:00AM-5:00PM

The Runge Hiking Club

Ages: 18 years and older

Learn about our wondrous state! Each month, we'll meet at the nature center, car pool to one of Missouri's choice hiking spots, and hike one or two of the best trails.

Paddy Creek Wilderness is over 7,000 acres of steep ridges, sandstone and dolomite outcrops, and oak-hickory forests, interspersed with Missouri's only native pine, the shortleaf. We'll hike the **Big Piney Trail** (4.5 miles, ***) to see undercut layers of sandstone, a wet-weather waterfall, and a panoramic overlook of the Ozark landscape. Bring your lunch, water, hiking boots or comfortable shoes, and come dressed for the weather. Reservations required.

19^{Saturday} 10:00AM

Story Tree

Ages: All

Changes are in the air. Fall is arriving. Explore the journey. All about migration.

Join us as we explore these changes reading books from our library. No reservations required.

20^{Sunday} 1:00–3:00PM

Missing Naturalists Mystery

Ages: All

Our naturalists have swiped items from the nature center and are hiding on the trails with them. Visit the front desk between 1:00 and 3:00PM to receive a set of clues to find them. Come dressed for the weather. The trail will be stroller accessible. No reservations required.



22^{Tuesday} 6:00-7:00PM

Bear Achievement #5

Sharing Your World With Wildlife

Ages: 3rd grade Boy Scouts

Reservations required.

23^{Wednesday} 8:00AM-5:00PM

Midweek Trekkers

Ages: 18 years and older

Runge Midweek Trekkers is a volunteer-led program designed to provide opportunities for people to hike Missouri trails and learn about our plants, animals, and natural communities. Each month, we'll meet at the nature center, car pool to one of Missouri's choice hiking spots, and hike one or two of the best trails.

Cuivre River State Park, located on the southern edge of Lincoln County, is a band of uplifted, limestone bedrock hills which provides the park with an Ozark-like look. The park contains karst features like caves, springs, and sinkholes. We will hike the **Cuivre River trail** (8 miles, ***) which takes us over rugged, wooded hills, and through deep valleys. Bring your lunch, water, hiking boots or comfortable shoes. Reservations required.



24^{Thursday} 5:30-8:30PM

The National Parks: America's Best Idea

Ages: All

Celebrate the natural wonders of our country! Runge Nature Center and KMOS-TV invite you to view a special concert taking place in New York's Central Park launching the national broadcast of Ken Burns' latest film, *The National Parks: America's Best Idea*. This opportunity is only available at select venues across the country.

5:30-6:30

~Walk through the Nature Center exhibits

~Enjoy the nature trails

~Sample local foods near the outdoor pavilion

6:45

~Introductory remarks in auditorium

7:00

~Sneak preview to include:

- Musical clips by Allison Krause, Chris Botti, Carole King, Peter Dinklage, and others
- Interviews from Burns and other filmmakers
- Highlights from the film

Seating is limited. Reservations required.

27^{Sunday} 2:00-4:00PM

Firearms Safety for Youth Hunters

Ages: 6-10 years old (accompanied by an adult)

Although this is not a hunter education course, this program can help you make sure your youth are safe during the hunting season. We will cover the commandments of firearms and safety, safe methods for carrying a firearm, and tree stand safety. Reservations required.

Trail rating system

- *Easiest Trail (flat terrain with no obstructions)
- **Slight inclines and/or few obstructions (gravel, few rocks)
- ***Moderate inclines and/or occasional rocks or roots
- ****Occasional significant inclines and/or rocks or roots
- *****Most difficult (significant inclines, obstructions, and/or loose rocks)

OCTOBER EVENTS

To make a reservation, call after **8:00AM** on **October 1st** to register for these programs (573/526-5544). If you must cancel, please call as soon as possible, so someone on the waiting list may attend. Thank you.

4^{Sunday} 2:00PM
A Puppet Show–Where Do You Go When It Feels Like Snow?
Ages: All
It may not feel chilly everyday, but temperatures outdoors are dropping. Our season is shifting from summer to fall. You know what to do when nippy breezes blow and cold rain falls. But how do Missouri’s animals know? Join the Runge Puppeteers and see how Red Fox, Fox Squirrel, and other animals answer the question, “Where do you go when it feels like snow?”
No reservations required.

10^{Saturday} 8:00AM–5:30PM
Runge Hiking Club
Ages: 18 years and older
This month we’ll visit **Graham Cave State Park** to see if we can add to our list of blooming wildflowers and trees from the area. We’ll hike two trails, the **Loutre River Trail** (1.5 miles, ***) and the **Indian Glade Trail** (2.25 miles, *****), which takes us on the roof of an elegantly arching shelter cave. We’ll also see undercut sandstone ledges, small glades, wet-weather waterfalls, and the Pirate’s Plank. Bring your lunch, water, hiking boots or comfortable shoes, and come dressed for the weather. Reservations required.

10^{Saturday} 2:00–4:00PM
Waterfowl Basics
Ages: 11 years and older
Waterfowl hunting is a time honored and exciting activity that pre-dates North American settlement. Today, waterfowl populations are doing quite well, providing challenging hunting opportunities and fine table fare for those who pursue them. Learn the basics of equipment, strategies, and techniques at this workshop. Other topics will include regulations, identification, recipes, and places to hunt. In addition, Ryan Scott, a Pro-Staffer from Avery/Lynch Mob Calls will be on hand to share his expertise on decoy sets and waterfowl calling. Reservations required.



13^{Tuesday} 6:00-7:30PM
Deer Processing
Ages: All ages
Going deer hunting? Then join us at the nature center to learn how to skin and process the deer you harvest this year. We’ll show you techniques, safety tips, and answer any questions you have about do-it-yourself processing. Reservations required.

15^{Thursday} 10:30AM–Noon and 6:00–7:30PM
Nature’s Needlers
Ages: 18 years and older
The tenth in our “block-within-a-block” series focuses on the “wascally wabbit.” Being close to the bottom of the food chain keeps the cottontail hopping! Join us as we explore the trials and tribulations of the rabbits’ life and create a patchwork block. Reservations required.

17^{Saturday} 10:00AM–Noon
Missing Naturalists Mystery
Ages: All

Our naturalists have swiped items from the nature center and are hiding on the trails with them. Visit the front desk between 10:00AM and Noon to receive a set of clues to find them. Come dressed for the weather. The trail will be stroller accessible. No reservations required.

17^{Saturday} 8:00AM-2:00PM
Wilderness Walks: Three Creeks Conservation Area
Ages: 18 years and older
The goal of this new program is to leisurely explore, identify, and thoroughly enjoy nature’s beautiful surroundings. This seasonal, interpretive program will be led by volunteer naturalists to a nearby conservation area. The first of our four seasonal walks will take place at **Three Creeks Conservation Area** (3-4 miles, *****). We will study tree identification, lumber use, and bird identification. Bring a snack or light lunch, water, hiking boots or comfortable shoes, and come dressed for the weather. Due to multiple creek crossings, be prepared for wet feet. Reservations required.

17^{Saturday} 2:00-3:00PM
Art and Nature Series: Collage
Ages: 8 - 12 years old
Learn to look at nature from another point of view! A collage is an assortment of items that are related. As you look at nature this month, you will have an opportunity to make a nature collage. I wonder what you will pick. Reservations required.

18^{Sunday} 2:00PM
Story Tree
Ages: All
Changes are in the air. Fall is arriving. Explore the journey. All about migration.
Join us as we explore these changes by reading books from our library. No reservations required.

21^{Wednesday} 8:00–5:00PM
Runge Midweek Trekkers
Ages: 18 years and older
This month we will travel to **Little Lost Creek Conservation Area**. The area was named for the creek that meanders through the area’s deep valleys and rugged wooded hills. A fall hike through the area will provide dazzling displays of color (5 miles, ****). Bring water, hiking boots or comfortable shoes, and come dressed for the weather. Reservations required.

Did You Know...

Chimney swifts migrate in the hundreds as they fly to their winter destination, South America. Look and listen for them as they circle around your neighborhood to find a roosting spot before moving on.

23^{Friday} 6:00–9:00PM

Haunted Habitats presents: Missouri Animals A–Z!

Ages: All
From Armadillos to Zebra Swallowtails, Missouri is home to a multitude of wild animals. Learn your **A, B, C**’s with a natural twist at this year’s Haunted Habitats event. Walk the **Alphabet Trail** and meet some of our MO animal friends, then venture inside to find more of our **Animal Alphabet!** Enjoy games, kettle corn, the **Alphabet Obstacle Course**, lighted pumpkins, and more at this year’s Haunted Habitats event.

Start getting in the Animal Alphabet mood by finding and circling all the alphabet animals in this newsletter. Rain date is Saturday, October 24th. No reservations required.

24^{Saturday} 1:00-4:30PM
Intro to Deer Hunting
Ages: 6 years and older
Ever wished you knew how to hunt deer? We will go over the basics of deer hunting for beginners, from tags to scouting, and from clothing to hunting methods. Reservations required.

For the little ones

Connect with nature through exciting and age-appropriate opportunities.

Babes In The Woods
Children ages 0 through 2 years of age are welcome to attend a Babes program with their caregiver. This program is limited to 15 children, plus a caregiver.

Tuesday, October 6 – 10:00AM
Friday, October 16 – 10:00AM

Little Acorns
Children 3 through 6 years of age are welcome to attend a Little Acorns program with their caregiver. This program is limited to 20 children, plus a caregiver.

Saturday, October 10 – 10:00AM
Thursday, October 29 – 1:00PM

Little Acorns PLUS
*If you have a child that fits into our Babes In The Woods program AND one that fits into our Little Acorns program this is for you! Little Acorns PLUS. This program is limited to 20 children, plus a caregiver. **When you make your reservation, please provide ages of your children.***

Friday, October 9 – 1:00PM
Wednesday, October 21 – 10:00AM

Falling Leaves
Come stroll through the shapes and colors of fall leaves. We will touch, look, color, and play with and in leaves. Reservations required.